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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Regional confidence-building measures

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II.	FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA	3 - 37	2
III.	FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA	38 - 76	7
IV.	CONCLUSION	77 - 80	12

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, welcomed the results of the meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee held at Bujumbura and at Libreville, particularly the adoption of the non-aggression pact between the States members of the Economic Community of Central Africa States, a pact likely to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and to confidence-building in the subregion. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the Central African States in implementing the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, and it also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General in implementation of that resolution.

II. FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

3. The fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held at Yaoundé, from 4 to 6 April 1994 at the expert level and on 7 and 8 April 1994 at the ministerial level.

4. Delegations from 11 States members of the Committee took part in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zaire.

5. At the opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting, statements were made by Mr. Ferdinand Léopold Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon; Mr. Sammy Kum Buo, Secretary of the Committee; Mr. Herbert McLeod, Resident Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Eritrea, representative of the United Nations Secretary-General; and General Idriss Ngari, Minister of Defence and Immigration of Gabon, current Chairman of the Committee.

A. Election of officers

6. The officers of the Committee were elected by consensus, as follows:

Chairman: Cameroon

First Vice-Chairman: Congo

Second Vice-Chairman: Angola

Rapporteur: Zaire

B. Progress of work

1. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in the Central African subregion

7. In its exchange of views, the Committee noted that crises and conflicts which were the products of ethnic rivalry, initiation into democracy and border disputes persisted in a number of countries, including Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and Cameroon.

8. At the same time, it welcomed the truces and the first signs of a climate of peace that would enable the process of democratization and economic progress to resume and be strengthened, especially in Chad, the Congo, Gabon and Zaire.

9. Given the above situation, the Committee made the following recommendations:

Angola

10. The Committee reiterated its concern at the delay in the peace process in Angola and once again urged its Angolan brothers to take advantage of the current talks at Lusaka to reach a just and equitable solution conducive to the restoration of peace in their country.

11. The Committee expressed support and encouragement for all the efforts by the Government of Angola, at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels, to find a negotiated solution to the conflict.

12. The Committee recommended that its officers dispatch a mission to Angola to inform the fraternal Angolan people of the active solidarity of the member States.

13. While again emphasizing the importance of the Declaration on the situation in Angola (AHG/Decl.2 (XXIX)) adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its twenty-ninth ordinary session, held at Cairo in June 1993, the Committee urgently requested UNITA to comply with Security Council resolutions 851 (1993) and 864 (1994).

Burundi

14. The Committee expressed its concern at the lack of security and the violence and mass killings in Burundi, which were exacerbated by politico-ethnic rivalry.

15. The Committee appealed to all its brothers in Burundi to work for national reconciliation and to ensure that their democratic gains were not reversed.

16. The Committee invited the member States to demonstrate their solidarity by encouraging the efforts made at the national, subregional, regional and international levels.

17. The Committee commended its officers for the positions they had taken in October 1993 and March 1994, when they had condemned the violence responsible for the loss of human lives, including that of President Melchior Ndadaye, and had called on the United Nations and OAU to do everything possible to promote a return to constitutional order, an end to the sufferings of the civilian population and engagement in dialogue and consultation.

Rwanda

18. The Committee invited its Rwandese brothers to implement the Arusha Peace Agreement of 4 August 1993 with a view to expediting national reconciliation and the establishment of the democratic institutions provided for in that Agreement.

Cameroon

19. With regard to the territorial and border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria, the Committee expressed grave concern at the tension in the Bakassi peninsula and its potential for degeneration into armed conflict.

20. The Committee welcomed the steps taken by Cameroon to settle the dispute peacefully by, inter alia, referring the matter to the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa and to the Security Council and the International Court of Justice. It requested those bodies to deal urgently with the dispute.

21. The Committee commended the Central Organ's reaffirmation of principles, at its meeting on 24 March 1994, with regard to inviolability of borders inherited from colonial times, respect for national sovereignty and independence, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

22. The Committee took note of the appeal by the OAU Central Organ inviting the parties to exercise restraint and to take appropriate steps to rebuild confidence by, for example, considering the withdrawal of troops and continuing the dialogue.

23. The Committee expressed its solidarity with Cameroon in the crisis and urged the parties to give precedence to dialogue and good faith in the search for a peaceful solution based on international law.

(a) Problem of arms proliferation among members of the civilian population

24. The Committee expressed its concern about the proliferation of arms among members of the civilian population and invited all the member States of the subregion to take the necessary measures, including collective action, to curb that destabilizing trend.

25. The Committee instructed its officers to approach the United Nations Secretary-General to request assistance to that end.

(b) Specific recommendations

26. In the light of the foregoing situations and requests, the Committee recommended that its officers should carry out the following action and report to it at its fifth meeting:

(a) Inform the Secretary-General of OAU and the Government of Burundi that member States would be willing to participate in the observer missions requested by fraternal Burundi;

(b) Inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government of Rwanda that member States would be willing to participate in any of the international observer missions in Rwanda;

(c) Support all steps taken at the regional, multilateral and international levels to settle the Cameroon-Nigeria dispute peacefully.

27. The Committee instructed its officers to convey all the above recommendations to the United Nations Secretary-General, for transmittal to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

2. Reflections on ways and means to achieve the peaceful settlement of crises and conflicts in Central Africa

3. Preventive diplomacy in Central Africa: exchange of views

4. Towards a common defence in Central Africa: exchange of views

5. Elaboration of measures for promoting the establishment of a standing inter-State general staff for crisis management with a view to setting up a subregional peace-keeping force

28. After a lengthy discussion of the four mutually reinforcing and complementary issues, in which the States members of the Committee confirmed their willingness to move towards the goal of their common defence in stages, the Committee concluded that the deliberations were sufficiently advanced and that the time was ripe to take action by implementing the following recommendations:

(a) The current Chairman of the Committee should prevail upon the 11 heads of State and Government of the subregion to sign promptly the Non-Aggression Pact adopted at Libreville at the third meeting of the Committee and should report to the latter at its fifth meeting;

(b) The delegations of the Congo and Zaire should draw up two draft legal instruments, one relating to a protocol of mutual assistance among the member States of the subregion in the area of defence and the other to the special status of a model unit specializing in peace-keeping missions with a view to the establishment of such a unit within the armed forces of each member State. The two drafts should be submitted to the Committee at its fifth meeting;

(c) The delegations of Cameroon and Chad should carry out a study of the typology of crises and conflicts in the subregion in which the intervention of a collective security mechanism might be required. The study should also be submitted to the Committee at its fifth meeting;

(d) The delegation of Gabon should prepare a draft on the organization of a temporary general staff committee for crisis management in the subregion. The draft should be submitted to the Committee at its fifth meeting;

(e) Each State member of the Committee should set up a national body to follow up the Committee's activities. A report on the establishment of such a body should be submitted to the Committee at its fifth meeting.

6. Review of procedural questions and questions relating to the work of the current officers of the Committee

29. The discussion of procedural questions and questions relating to the work of the officers of the Committee focused on the streamlining of activities. The Committee agreed on the following measures:

(a) The Committee's agenda and programme of work should, in future, be submitted separately. The draft agenda should be transmitted to member States at least one month before the convening of the Committee;

(b) As the Committee was operating under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, its recommendations should take the form of declarations or resolutions;

(c) Given that the tasks to be entrusted to its officers would be more practical in future, the Committee recommended that the States which provided the officers should be responsible for the financial efforts required for the performance of those tasks;

(d) It was agreed in principle that the term of the officers of the Committee should be extended from 6 to 12 months but that the six-monthly periodicity of Committee meetings should be maintained. The country providing the Chairman should act as host to two consecutive meetings of the Committee;

(e) The Committee agreed to include in the agenda of its next meeting an item on the status of observers and those invited to attend its meetings.

7. Miscellaneous

30. With a view to strengthening security, stability and development in the countries of the subregion by further promoting respect for human rights and the establishment of democracy, the Committee was of the view that a subregional centre for human rights should be set up at Yaoundé under the auspices of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat.

31. Such action would be pursuant to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which was held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993.

32. The subregional centre for human rights would be concerned above all with helping to train staff engaged in administering human rights matters, extending support to the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions and assisting in the dissemination and popularization of international human rights instruments.

33. Further to the recommendation at its third meeting regarding the participation in the Committee's meetings of subregional economic integration organizations (the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Customs and Economic Union (CACEU) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL)), and in view of those organizations' financial difficulties, the Committee decided that, whenever participation was not feasible, those organizations would in future be represented by the delegation of the State which provided the current Chairman.

34. The Committee welcomed the establishment by the Government of Chad of a national commission to study the typology of crises and conflicts in Central Africa.

35. The Committee was also pleased to note the decision of the Libyan Government to withdraw its troops from the Aouzou Strip, pursuant to the Judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice, on 3 February 1994.

8. Submission, consideration and adoption of the final report on the fourth meeting of the Committee

36. The final report on the fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was unanimously adopted on 8 April 1994 by the ministerial meeting.

37. The Committee decided to hold its fifth meeting at Yaoundé in the second half of 1994, at a time to be determined by its officers.

III. FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

38. The fifth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held at Yaoundé, from 5 to 7 September 1994 at the expert level and on 8 and 9 September 1994 at the ministerial level.

39. Ten delegations from the 11 States members of the Committee took part in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire.

40. Rwanda was unable to send a delegation.

41. At the opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting, statements were made by Mr. Edouard Akame Mfoumou, Minister of Defence attached to the Office of the President, representing the host country; Mr. Sammy Kum Buo, Secretary of the Committee; and Mr. Ferdinand Léopold Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, current Chairman of the Committee.

A. Progress of work

1. Reports by individual delegations on steps taken to establish a national body to follow up the Committee's activities

42. After the individual delegations had reported, the Committee concluded that progress had been made with respect to the establishment by each member State of a national body to follow up the Committee's activities. It commended the measures taken by some of the States and invited others to emulate the examples of Cameroon and the Congo.

2. Observer participation in the Committee's meetings

43. After considering the question, the Committee accepted the principle of observer participation in its meetings.

44. The Committee accorded permanent observer status to the subregional economic integration organizations (ECCAS, CACEU, CEPGL) and to OAU.

45. It decided that other States Members of the United Nations, States members of international organizations and non-governmental organizations, research establishments and any natural or legal person concerned with the promotion of international peace and security would be able to participate in its meetings upon their request and subject to the officers' agreement.

46. The Committee reiterated its intention to invite, when necessary, any natural or legal person to participate in its meetings as an expert or a consultant.

3. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in the Central African subregion

47. Following an exchange of views on this subject, the Committee noted that the situation in Central Africa had worsened dramatically since its fourth meeting, with particularly tragic consequences in Rwanda.

48. Given the uncertainties, the Committee made the following recommendations.

Angola

49. As regards progress in Angola, the Committee expressed its concern at the duration of the current talks at Lusaka which had already lasted nine months because of the intransigence of UNITA.

50. It invited once more its Angolan brothers to take advantage of the talks to reach a prompt, just, equitable and durable solution conducive to the restoration of peace in their country.

51. The Committee renewed its support for the Government of Angola and expressed encouragement for that Government's efforts at the bilateral and multilateral levels to reach a negotiated solution, and it emphasized once again the importance of the Declaration on the situation in Angola adopted by the OAU Conference of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-ninth ordinary session and the declarations on Angola adopted by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa.

52. The Committee commended the Republic of the Congo for its implementation of Security Council resolution 864 (1994) imposing a ban on the transit of arms and logistical support through the territory of Angola's neighbours. It invited the other neighbouring countries to follow suit.

Burundi

53. In the light of developments in Burundi, the Committee focused its attention on the Government's efforts to restore peace, promote national reconciliation and secure its borders.

54. The Committee called upon the international community to support national reconciliation and reconstruction efforts in Burundi.

55. It expressed interest in and support for the Burundi delegation's suggestion that the United Nations might be asked to organize an international conference on peace, security and development in the area of the Great Lakes Countries. It urged the Government of Burundi to follow up that suggestion.

Rwanda

56. With regard to Rwanda, which was in the throes of an unprecedented human disaster, the Committee urged the international community to redouble efforts to help that country effect its national reconciliation and reconstruction in as short a period as possible, so as to enable it to return to a state of normality.

57. The Committee commended the assistance provided by neighbouring countries to the fraternal Rwandese people, especially by Zaire.

58. It also commended those of its members which had sent military contingents to deliver humanitarian assistance to Rwanda (Chad and Congo) or had provided material and financial support (Gabon).

59. The Committee invited the other States of the subregion to continue to express their solidarity with the Rwandese people in a practical form.

60. The Committee urged Rwanda and Zaire to continue the recently begun bilateral talks with a view to promoting the return of refugees to their homes. It took note of the Zairian delegation's expression of concern and its request

for support from the international community in order to cope with the problems caused by the arrival of waves of Rwandese refugees in its territory, a situation which posed a real threat to the security of Zaire and of other neighbouring countries.

Other member States

Cameroon

61. As to the territorial and border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria, the Committee, while reiterating its solidarity with Cameroon, welcomed the resumption of summit-level talks between the two States, with Togo as mediator and with support from the international community, and urged them to continue such efforts.

Other States

62. The Committee commended the current peace efforts in Chad, the Congo, Gabon and Zaire and called for their strengthening.

63. In view of the climate of uncertainty and danger in the subregion, the Committee recommended that its officers should visit Angola, Burundi and Rwanda on a mission of solidarity before the end of the current term.

Specific recommendations addressed to the officers of the Committee

64. Given the financial efforts required of the States members providing the officers of the Committee, the Committee recommended that when a member State acted as host to a delegation of officers of the Committee, it should provide that delegation with accommodation and transport within its borders.

65. Such contribution by the host country related especially to the Chairman and/or another officer of the Committee.

66. The Committee agreed to include in the agenda of every meeting an item entitled "Evaluation of the recommendations made at the preceding meeting".

4. Group discussion on the theme "Crises and conflicts in Central Africa: the role to be played by and the outlook for preventive diplomacy"

67. A group discussion on the theme "Crises and conflicts in Central Africa: the role to be played by and the outlook for preventive diplomacy" marked the closure of the expert proceedings. In addition to the delegations participating in the meeting, invitations to attend were issued to members of the host Government and the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations, and other eminent persons. The group heard a statement by Mr. Shawn McCormick, Deputy Director, Africa Division, Center for Strategic Studies, Washington, on the role and contribution of foreign actors in the peaceful conflict resolution in Central Africa and a statement by Mr. Hassan Fall Diop, Journalist, Radio France internationale, Paris, on the

role of the media in armed conflict resolution in Africa. In the ensuing debate, many points of substance were raised as participants exchanged views on current crises and conflicts in the subregion, including the question of measures aimed at their prevention. It was decided that the exercise had provided food for thought in the Committee's pursuit of a better understanding of the crises and conflicts afflicting the subregion.

5. Submission of draft studies

68. The following four draft studies were before the Committee:

(a) Typology of sources of crises and conflicts in Central Africa (submitted by the delegations of Cameroon and Chad);

(b) Mutual assistance agreement with respect to defence and security between the States members of ECCAS (submitted by the delegations of the Congo and Zaire);

(c) Special status of the model unit specializing in peace-keeping missions (submitted by the delegations of the Congo and Zaire);

(d) Temporary general staff for crisis management in Central Africa (submitted by the delegation of Gabon).

69. After a fruitful exchange of views on the four draft studies, the Committee expressed its satisfaction with the high quality of the work accomplished and the relevance of the studies, and decided to continue consideration of them at its sixth meeting. It paid homage to its experts.

70. The States members of the Committee renewed their commitment to participation in peace-keeping operations within the framework of the United Nations and OAU.

71. To that end, they undertook to establish within their respective armed forces a unit specializing in peace-keeping operations.

72. They asked for assistance from the United Nations, OAU and third States in the training and preparation of such units and in establishing an appropriate system for managing security problems in Central Africa.

73. The Committee recommended that its Secretary and officers should become more deeply involved in the search for ways to enable the Committee to achieve its goals.

6. Initialling of the Non-Aggression Pact between the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States

74. At the Committee's fifth meeting, the member States initialled the Non-Aggression Pact concluded by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States. All the delegations said that they regarded the Pact as

a milestone in the context of the continuing efforts by the countries members of the Committee in the area of preventive diplomacy. At the ministerial meeting, the Chairman of the Committee announced that the heads of State of the subregion could be expected to sign the Pact before the end of the current year and emphasized the need for its entry into force without delay.

7. Submission, consideration and adoption of the final report on the fifth meeting of the Committee

75. The final report on the fifth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was adopted unanimously by the ministerial meeting.

76. The sixth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa will be held at Brazzaville during the first half of 1995, at a time yet to be determined.

IV. CONCLUSION

77. Central Africa continues to experience strife and open conflict, particularly in Angola, Burundi and Rwanda. It is therefore incumbent on the Secretary-General to congratulate the member countries which have already provided assistance, of one kind or another, to those three countries. The tragic events in Angola and Burundi and, more especially, in Rwanda have once again underlined as a necessity, as the Committee has pointed out, that all possible ways of curbing crises before they degenerate into open conflicts should be explored in a sustained manner.

78. The Non-Aggression Pact adopted unanimously by the States members of the Committee in 1993, and recently initialled, is undoubtedly a practical result of considerable impact. The prompt signature and entry into force of the Pact will certainly help to attenuate many of the differences between States. It is therefore a positive beginning, but much remains to be done both to consolidate the progress made through agreement on the Pact and to develop and implement internal measures conducive to the promotion of veritable peace and security in each of the States of the subregion.

79. The decision of the countries members of the Committee to establish, within their respective armed forces, units specializing in peace-keeping, is a positive development which will promote their effective participation in peace-keeping operations. Appropriate measures to strengthen the implementation of this decision should be taken as soon as possible.

80. The Secretary-General is convinced that the extremely useful work already initiated within the framework of the Committee again deserves the continuing support and encouragement of the international community.